



UNDER THE OAK TREE



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SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

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Below is an extract from the upcoming sexual assault and sexual harassment training the division will receive. It is important that all of our warriors are constantly ready for battle when it comes to sexual assault and sexual harassment.

You have the responsibility as members of our profession to ensure that the trust between the American people and our Army is not violated. Fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters are counting on each and every one of you, do not let them down.

Despite ongoing efforts, sexual assault is a continued problem throughout our military which has a large impact on our ability to accomplish the mission. Our ethics and values do not change just because we are in a different environment; instead they become that much more essential to mission success.

While senior leaders (Division/Brigade/Battalion Commanders/Sergeant Majors and their staff) are responsible for setting the overall climate, policies, and guidance, it is the junior leaders (officers and noncommissioned officers) that are critical for the enforcement of the ethic climate. On the spot corrections, remedial training and counseling provide junior leaders with the methods for doing this.

Sexual assaults in our area of operation are significantly higher than the Army average with more than 20 occurring in our formation over the past six months. As throughout the Army, our junior Soldiers are most at risk, especially in environments when consuming alcohol.

We are all part of the less than one percent of the United States citizens who have made the commitment to join the profession of arms. As Soldiers we are ambassadors of our government and representatives of our unit and our Families. We have an obligation to uphold the law and to protect our fellow Soldiers from harm, not only in combat but in everything that we do.

Our profession's ethic remains the foundation of trust which the American people place in their military. In turn, our Army ethic rests on a bedrock of our seven Army Values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. It is a unique collection, unlike any other organization in the world, and reflects the high standards to which the entire Army adheres, regardless of our mission area.

These Army Values guide the thinking, behavior and professional ethos of every Warrior. The American people hold the entire Army to a higher standard, not just the front-line Warriors. The priorities we set, the efficiencies we gain, the continuous improvements we achieve, must be done while maintaining our values. We must continually measure ourselves and our success by our adherence to these values.

We will attack this problem through engaged leadership. Our leaders must know their Soldiers and communicate the vital importance of each and every Soldier to the success of the unit. We set a climate that does not accept, watch or walk by misconduct, sexual assault or other actions that are not in keeping with our standards and values.

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The U.S. Army and the 2nd Infantry Division maintain a high ethical standard. That standard applies whether we are in garrison or in combat. All Soldiers will display and live by the Army Values. Violations, misconduct and sexual assault are never acceptable.

Junior leaders are the key to setting the tone and enforcing the standards. Everyone must monitor their units for early warning signs and take corrective actions. Leaders at all levels must ensure that all Soldiers understand the importance of reporting potential assaults and harassment.

All of us must do our part, I. A. M. STRONG.

Second to None!

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